

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle sunroof comprising:
a panel moveable between a closed position and a vent position, said panel being driven to pivot between said closed and said vent positions, said vent position being defined by driving said panel to generally pivot about a forward end, and a drive mechanism for driving said panel to pivot between said vent and said closed positions; and
a side shield for preventing access to said drive mechanism, said side shield being formed of a material allowing air passages generally over the full extent of an exposed cross-sectional area..
2. A sunroof as set forth in claim 1, wherein said side shield has a non-rectangular shape.
3. A sunroof as set forth in claim 2, wherein said side shield has a rear dimension associated with a rear end of said panel which pivots to move to said vent position, said side shield having a forward dimension associated with said panel forward end, said forward dimension of said side shield being smaller than said rear dimension.
4. A sunroof as set forth in claim 1, wherein said side shield is attached to a pivot bar, said pivot bar being a portion of said drive mechanism.

5. A sunroof as set forth in claim 1, wherein the side shield is positioned laterally inwardly of said drive mechanism.

6. A sunroof as set forth in claim 1, wherein there are side shields and drive mechanisms associated with each of two opposed lateral sides of said panel, with said side shields being positioned laterally inwardly of said drive mechanism.

7. A sunroof as set forth in claim 1, wherein said material is a mesh material.

8. A vehicle sunroof comprising:

a panel moveable between a closed position and a vent position, said panel being driven to pivot between said closed and said vent positions, said vent position being defined by driving said panel to generally pivot about a forward end, and a drive mechanism for driving said panel to pivot between said vent and said closed position; and

a side shield for preventing access to said drive mechanism, said side shield having a rear dimension associated with a rear end of said panel which pivots to move to said vent position, said side shield having a forward dimension associated with said forward end of said panel, said forward dimension of said side shield being smaller than said rear dimension.
9. A sunroof as set forth in claim 8, wherein said side shield is attached to a pivot bar, said pivot bar being a portion of said drive mechanism.
10. A sunroof as set forth in claim 8, wherein the side shield is positioned laterally inwardly of said drive mechanism.
11. A sunroof as set forth in claim 8, wherein there are side shields and drive mechanisms associated with each of two opposed lateral sides of said panel, with said side shields being positioned laterally inwardly of said drive mechanism.